

## *Euglandina rosea* and Mollusc extinctions

Of the 795 species that are known to be Extinct (EX) on the IUCN Red List, 324 (just over 40%) are Molluscs (281 Gastropods and 29 Bivalves) (IUCN Red List 2012). Of the 63 species that are Extinct in the Wild (EW) 14 are Gastropods (IUCN Red List 2012). The majority of Mollusc extinctions have taken place on Oceanic Islands and a third of them most likely to have been caused by the introduction of the predatory rosy wolf snail (*Euglandina rosea*) (Regnier et al 2009). Partulid snails (Polynesian tree snails) from French Polynesia have suffered the most losses with more than 50 species classified as EX and EW, most population declines occurring after the introduction of the rosy wolf snail to French Polynesia in the 1970's.

The predatory rosy wolf snail is one of the significant threats to the survival of the Critically Endangered (CR) Oahu tree snails (*Achatinella* spp). Of the 39 *Achatinella* species assessed on the IUCN Red List 15 are listed as EX and 24 CR. The other threats include habitat degradation due to the spread of invasive alien plant species such as *Grevillia*, strawberry Guava, *Lantana* etc.

The carnivorous rosy wolf snail was introduced to Indian and Pacific Ocean Islands from the 1950s onwards as a biological control agent for the giant African snail (*Achatina fulica*). The rosy wolf snail is not host specific meaning that native molluscs species are at risk of expatriation or even extinction if this mollusc-eating snail is introduced.

The rosy wolf snail is native to the southern east coast of the United States- southeastern Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina and widespread in Florida including the Keys. It has been introduced to various Pacific Island and Pacific



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Rim island groups, Indian Ocean islands and the Caribbean. It has also been introduced to India, Taiwan and Japan.

The shell is large (up to 76 mm in height, 275 mm in diameter), thick and has prominent growth lines. The shape of the shell is fusiform with a narrow ovate-lunate aperture and a truncated columella; typically, the shell color is brownish-pink. Adult snails grow from about seven to 10 cm long. The rosy wolf snail is usually found singly in hardwood forests, roadsides and urban gardens in its native range.

### References:

IUCN 2012. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2012.2. [[link](#)]

Regnier, C., B. Fontaine & P. Bouchet. 2009. Not Knowing, Not Recording, Not Listing: Numerous Unnoticed Mollusk Extinctions. *Conservation Biology* 23(5): 1214 - 1221



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